Stevenage, Herts,
February 22nd, 1909.

To the members of the Stevenage Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my report for the year 1908.

"The health of the district during the past year has been good. In the early part of the year there was an epidemic of measles of a severe type. No case, however, proved fatal. Two cases of scarlet fever were reported to me; in each case infection was taken from outside the district. No cases of diphtheria or chicken-pox have occurred during the year. Fuller details of cases notified are given below.

THE DEATH-RATE.

"During the year 54 deaths of residents occurred, also 5 deaths in public institutions outside your area, making in all 59 deaths. The death-rate per 1,000 of estimated population for the year is 14 (this being inclusive of the 5 deaths of residents in institutions outside your district); that of 1907 being 13.3, and of 1906 15.5. Of these deaths 12 were under 1 year, 1 was between 1 and 5 years, 1 between 15 and 25 years, 18 were between 25 and 65 years, and 22 over 65 years. Of the 22 deaths which occurred over the age of 65 years 2 were between 65 and 70, 12 between 70 and 80, 7 between 80 and 90, and 1 was over 90.

"The percentage of infantile mortality per 1,000 births registered is 78.47, being a slight increase from the previous year, when it was exceptionally low; namely 66.14. This year the percentage compares favourably with previous years, as in 1907 it was 133.3. Last year the chief cases of infant mortality were inanition and premature birth. The efforts now being made by the County Council as regards inspection of midwives, instruction to nurses, and providing cards to be left with parents as regards feeding, etc., will, I hope, in a short time tend to greatly reduce these figures.

"During the year 117 births were registered; of these 59 were boys and 58 were girls. As compared with last year, the number of births is 4 less.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

"During the past year 68 cases have been notified to me, of which 14 were erysipelas, 2 scarlet fever, and 52 measles. No case of infectious disease proved fatal. As reported last year, we still have no isolation hospital.

WATER SUPPLY.

"The water supply during the year has been good and continuous. The great necessity of having an additional reservoir for the storing of water has been brought to your notice. I understand that negotiations are now in progress for the early fulfilment of this urgent requirement. The fully-licenced public-house in your district, on which I have reported before, now has a good and constant water supply from a well recently sunk.

NUISANCES.

"Few nuisances have been reported to me during the past year. Three cases of overcrowding were reported, and in each case the nuisance ceased. The complaints as regards the manure standing in the siding of the station have not been so many. Since the new siding at Little Wymondley has been made the amount left in the Stevenage siding is much less, and more care has been taken that no vegetable matter is sent. Only a few trucks of 'London ashes' have been sent here.

PREMISES UNDER INSPECTION.

"I have inspected all the dairies, cow-sheds, bakehouses, slaughter-houses, and workshops in the district with your inspector. All were found satisfactory .

THE NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

"In conclusion, I must remind you again of the condition of the Stevenage National School, which for several years' past has been brought to your notice. This matter requires most urgent and prompt attention. I understand that plans have already been submitted to, and passed by you, of new schools, which it is proposed to erect on Letchmore-green for boys, the present boys' school being then used for girls and infants. I strongly recommend that you should do all in your power to forward this matter."

The usual statistics are appended.

I am Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

PETER R. TARBET,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.